

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is being filed simultaneously with a Request for Continued Examination. Thus, this Amendment serves as a submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-19 and 26-30 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 11, and 18 are amended, claims 20-25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 26-30 are added. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 11-17, 20, 21, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Murayama et al. (JP 2001-230073). The Office Action also rejects claims 5, 7-10, 18, 19 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Murayama. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites a sealant, an emitting cell (comprising an anode strip, a supplement electrode, an organic EL layer, and a cathode strip), a bulkhead for insulating the cathode strip and an adjacent cathode strip, and a supplemental bulkhead for connecting adjacent bulkheads and preventing a sealant from permeating into at least one of the emitting cell. Independent claim 1 also recites that the supplemental bulkhead comprises: a first supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of the bulkhead at a location between an end portion of the bulkhead and the emitting cell, a second supplemental bulkhead segment

coupled to an end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment, and a third supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the second supplemental bulkhead segment and another supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of an adjacent bulkhead, wherein a distance between an end portion of the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell.

The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, Murayama does not teach or suggest a first supplemental bulkhead, a second supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to the first supplemental bulkhead segment and a third supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to the second supplemental bulkhead segment. See element 15a in Murayama's FIGS. 41-49, which are referenced in the Office Action. Additionally, Murayama does not teach or suggest that a distance between an end portion of the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell.

Murayama does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. AAPA does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1 missing from Murayama. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 7 recites forming an anode strip and a supplement electrode in a smaller width than the anode strip, forming an insulating film, forming a bulkhead and at least one supplemental bulkhead coupled to at least one side portion of the bulkhead, forming an organic EL layer and a cathode strip, and adhering a seal-cover and a glass substrate by using a sealant. Independent claim 7 also recites that the supplement bulkhead comprises: a first supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of the bulkhead at a location between an end portion of the bulkhead and the emitting cell, a second supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment, and a third supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the second supplemental bulkhead segment and another supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of an adjacent bulkhead, wherein a distance between an end portion of the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Murayama does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 7. More specifically, Murayama does not teach or suggest a first supplemental bulkhead segment, a second supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to the first supplemental bulkhead segment and a third supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to the second bulkhead segment. Murayama also does not teach or suggest that a distance between an

end portion of the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell. AAPA does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 7 missing from Murayama. Thus, independent claim 7 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 11 recites a plurality of bulkheads for insulating the plurality of emitting cells, and a supplemental bulkhead for connecting adjacent bulkheads and preventing a sealant from permeating into at least one of the emitting cells. Independent claim 11 also recites that the supplemental bulkhead comprises: a first supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of the bulkhead at a location between an end portion of the bulkhead and the emitting cell, a second supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment, and a third supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the second supplemental bulkhead segment and another supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of an adjacent bulkhead. Independent claim 11 further recites that a distance between an end portion of the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Murayama and AAPA do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 11. Thus, independent claim 11 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 18 recites forming a plurality of anode strips on a substrate, forming an insulating film in a region other than an emitting cell region, forming a plurality of bulkheads on the insulating film and a supplemental bulkhead connecting adjacent ones of the bulkheads, and forming an organic EL layer and a cathode strip in the emitting cell region. Independent claim 18 also recites that the supplemental bulkhead comprises: a first supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of the bulkhead at a location between an end portion of the bulkhead and the emitting cell, a second supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment, and a third supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to an end portion of the second supplemental bulkhead segment and another supplemental bulkhead segment coupled to a lateral face of an adjacent bulkhead. Independent claim 18 also recites that a distance between an end portion of the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the end portion of the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell.

For at least similar the reasons as set forth above, Murayama and AAPA do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 18. Thus, independent claim 18 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 26 recites an emitting cell between two bulkheads, and a supplemental bulkhead for connecting two bulkheads. Independent claim 26 also recites that the supplemental bulkhead includes a second supplemental bulkhead segment connecting a first supplemental bulkhead segment and a third supplemental bulkhead segment, wherein a distance between the third supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell is greater than a distance between the first supplemental bulkhead segment and the emitting cell.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Murayama and AAPA do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 26. Thus, independent claim 26 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 7, 11, 18 and 26 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

Serial No. **10/824,364**

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Amendment dated **September 5, 2008**

Reply to Office Action of **May 8, 2008**

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 7-19 and 26-30 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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**Date: September 5, 2008**

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